

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Forest Service****Information Collection; Request for Comments; Public Perceptions of Pacific Northwest National Forest System Land Management Practices**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intention to establish a new information collection. This information will help the Forest Service learn more about the people who live in western Washington, western Oregon, and northern California and who visit the National Forests.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before November 30, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments should be addressed to: Linda Kruger, Research Social Scientist, Seattle Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Forest Service, USDA, 4043 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (206) 553-7709 or by email to lkruger/r6pnw\_seattle@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the Office of the Director, Seattle Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Forest Service, USDA, 4043 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, Washington.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Linda Kruger, Seattle Forestry Sciences Laboratory, at (206) 553-7817.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

In 1994, the Forest Service adopted the Northwest Forest Plan in response to perceptions the public had that Forest Service land management practices on National Forests in western Washington, western Oregon and northern California might have negative impacts on timber resources and threatened and endangered species, such as the northern spotted owl.

The Northwest Forest Plan includes new guidelines, such as whether or not to harvest trees, and if trees are harvested, the geographic location from which they may be harvested, as well as the methods that may be used to harvest them.

Forest Service personnel now need a better understanding as to whether or not the new guidelines meet the natural resource management expectations of the public.

**Description of Information Collection**

The following describes the new information collection:

*Title:* Public Perceptions of New Approaches to Forest Management.

*OMB Number:* New.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* New.

*Type of Request:* The following describes a new collection requirement and has not received approval by the Office of Management and Budget.

*Abstract:* The data from this information collection will help the Forest Service gain a better understanding of the western Washington, western Oregon, and northern California residents' perceptions of the agency's land management practices on the National Forests in these areas, such as how the agency decides where timber harvests will occur and how the agency manages the harvests.

The Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station People and Natural Resources Program has entered into a cooperative agreement with the University of Oregon to facilitate this collection of information. University of Oregon staff, in collaboration with Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station staff, will write the survey, administer the survey, and analyze the survey results.

Residents in western Washington, western Oregon, and northern California will be asked to view photographs of forests that have been harvested using a variety of harvesting methods; residents also will view photographs of forests that have not been harvested. Interviewers will explain why certain areas were chosen for timber harvesting and the reasons for the specific harvesting method. The residents will indicate their level of approval or disapproval for each photograph, in addition to their perceptions of how a particular harvesting method or lack of harvesting affected the scenic beauty of the area, the wildlife habitat, or the water quality.

Residents will be asked which of the National Forest resources are most important to them: the recreational facilities, the potential economic opportunities, or the aesthetic qualities. Residents also will be asked to respond to questions about their ethnic background, their economic status, their age, their educational level, the type of residence in which they live, and how long they have lived in the Pacific Northwest.

Data gathered in this information collection is not available from other sources.

*Estimate of Burden:* 20 minutes.

*Type of Respondents:* Respondents will include people who live in rural and urban settings in western Oregon, western Washington, and northern

California, and members of organizations interested in management of the National Forests in western Oregon, western Washington and northern California.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1700.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 567 hours.

**Comment is Invited**

The agency invites comments on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes or the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (b) the accuracy of this agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**Use of Comments**

All comments received in response to this notice, including name and address when provided, will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 23, 1999.

**Robert Lewis, Jr.,**

*Deputy Chief for Research & Development.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration****Designation for the Los Angeles Area**

**AGENCY:** Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** GIPSA announces the designation of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (California) to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act) in the Los Angeles area.

**EFFECTIVE DATES:** October 1, 1999.